this Bill to be referred to the Standing Committee. I would convey this to the hon. Chairman.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Of course, the hon. Chairman has to take a decision on this. You can convey the sense of the House to the hon. Chairman. Ultimately, the decision has to be taken by him.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): The sense of the House would be conveyed to the hon. Chairman that the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1997, should be referred to the Standing Committee so that it could be considered in detail by the Standing Committee.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Providing a time-prame, as has been suggested by Mr. Pranab Mukherjee.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Providing a time-frame, as you said.

Scretary General will inform the hon. Chairman, and the Bill will be sent to the Standing Committee, subject to his approval, of course.

THE NAVY (AMENDMENT) Bill, 1997

THE VICE-CHAIRMN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Now we will take up the Navy (Amendment) Bill, 1997. Mr. George Fernandes.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Madam, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Navy Act, 1957, be taken into consideration."

This Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha in the first instance on the 12th of March, 1997. It was referred to the Standing Committee on Defence on the 17th of March, 1997. The Standing Committee gave its Report on the 31st of July, 1997. The concluding para of the Report of the Standing Committee is as follows:

> "The Committee adopt the Navy (Amendment) Bill, 1997, without any recommendation for amendment."

I am assuming, Madam Chairperson, that this decision of the Standing Committee must be because this Bill deals with some internal administrative matters of the Navy and some minor amendments. One of the amendments deals with the definition of the world "Officer". Five amendments deal with offences committed by the Naval personnel, their prosecution and punishment. What is sought to be done here is to bring these matters in line with the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

There is another clause which seeks to increase the payment from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 1 lakh to the entitled person, the estate of the deceased officer or sailor without requiring that person to produce any conclusive evidence such as probates of will, succession certificate etc., with the sole purpose of providing speedy relief in the event of an untimely death of an individual.

The last amendment which this Bill deals, pertains to repealing one section of the Act which still has a reference to the personnel ofthe Royal Navy. That should have been eliminatd from this Act a long time back.

So, Madam Chairperson, as I said, this is a Bill which deals with some aspects of the rules pertaining to the Navel personnel. Since it is being commended by the Standing Committee on Defence without suggesting any kind of amendment, I request the House to adopt this BIll.

The question was proposed.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): There is one amendment by Shri S. Ramachandran Pillai for reference of the Bill to the Joint Committee of the Houses.

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Navy Act, 1957 be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 30 member; 10 members from this House, namely,

Shri Pranab Mukherjee,
Shri John F. Fernandes,
Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi,
Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar,
Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav,
Shri Ranjan Prasad Yadav,
Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi,
Shri R. Margabandu,
Shri E. Balanandan and
Shri J. Chitharanjan,...

That in order to constitute a meeting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of Members of the Joint Committee; that in other respects the rules of procedure of this House relating to the Select Committee shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Chairman my make; that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the first day of the next session and that this House recommends to the Lok Sabha that the Lok Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of Members to be appointed by the Lok Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The question were proposed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): The two are now open for discussion. Shri Anantray Devshanker Dave.

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Madam, I may be allowed to explain the reasons for my motion.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Pillai, your name is there in the List. When your turn comes, you can speak on those reasons.

श्री अनंतराय देवशंकर दवे(गुजरात): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, आज जो यह बिल आया है...

श्री रमाशंकर कौशिक: जब यह अमैण्डमेंट बिल यहां सिलेक्ट कमेटी के लिये आ गया है तो पहले इनको बोलने का मौका दिया जाए।

SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam, when there is an amendment by a Member that this Bill be referred to the Joint Select Committee, what is the point of a discussion on the Bill? *(Interruptions).* Let me make my observations. We had a similar Bill last year. The Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill was introduced on the recommendation's of the Standing Committee. That Bill came to the House in the Monsoon Session last year. That Bill was approved by the Standing Committee of Parliament without any amendment, as the hon. Minister has just now mentioned. The House, in its wisdom, had referred that Bill to the Select Committee. I happended to be the Chairman of that Select Committee. The Committee after deliberations gave recommendations to the Government. Now, in case this Bill is to be referred to the Select Committee, what is the point in debating the Bill on which we have reservations and objections? So, let that amendment of the Member be moved.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I think this is the practice in the House. Mr. Pillai, you must be knowing this thing. Let every Member speak on this and at the time of the amendment we can ask for the...

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: No, Madam. We need not go into the merits of the Bill, because a similar Bill was considered by this House—the Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill. That Bill was also considered by the Standing Committee and it unanimously recommeded the Bill. We considered that Bill and found many shortcomings and weakness in the Bill. So, we, in our wisdom, referred it to the Select Committee. The Select Committee considered that Bill and made certain suggestions for amendment. A similar provision is incorporated here, which was considered by the Select Committee and the Select Committee suggested modifications. That is pending before the Government. That provision is incorporated here. This provision was

also considered by that Select Committee and the Select Committee instructed the Government to make necessary changes. That is why I am asking that this Bill should be referred to the Select Committee. A similar provision was considered by the Select Committee and the Select Committee found many shortcomings and lacunae. The Select Committee suggested to the Government that the Government should make necessary changes in this Bill. That is before the Government. Now, the Government is approaching again this House with a similar provision that was rejected by the Select Committee.

प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दिल्ली): मैडम, इसमें दो बातें इन्वाल्व हैं। पहले यह आया था कि स्टेंडिंग कमेटी के पास पहला बिल नहीं गया और आमतौर से कन्वेंशन यह है कि स्टेंडिंग कमेटी उसको डिसकस करती है। बिजनेस एडवाइजरी कमेटी में सुबह बात हुई थी और उसमें यह तय हुआ था कि हम दोनों बिलों को पास करेंगे। बाद में यह बात आई कि यह स्टेंडिंग कमेटी में नहीं गया...**(व्यवसाय)**...

SHRI MD. SALIM: the House can only pass this Bill. the BAC can only decide time for consideration of this Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): If you speak on by one, that will be better.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: बी०ए०सी० में बैठकर बिल पास नहीं करते, हाउस में बैठकर करते हैं।

प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: आप भी बात कहिए और मुझे भी अपनी बात कहने दीजिए। इसमें गुस्से की बात नहीं है। अभी तो आपने.....

प्रो० रमाशंकर कौशिक: बिजनेस एडवाइजरी कमेटी में यह रखा जा सकता है कि यह रखा जाएगा लेकिन यह पास करेंगे यह थोड़ी रखा जा सकता है।

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam, the BAC cannot usurp the powers of the House.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Let me finish. The Chair has allowed me to speak...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: let there be some response from the Defence Minister.

प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: मैडम, मैं यह कह रहा था कि सुबह—इसको यहां पर कहना मुश्किल है परन्तु कांग्रेस पार्टी से भी बात हुई थी और एक तरह से यह तय था कि इस बिल को पास करेंगे। लेकिन अब इनका कहना है कि यह नया अमेंडमेंट आ गया है। अगर उन्हें यह लगे कि स्टेंडिंग कमेटी से हर आइटम आएगा और उसके ऊपर बिल बनेगा, अगर सलेक्ट कमेटी हर एक बार बनेगी तो मैं समझता हूं कि यह एक गलत कन्वेंशन हो जाएगा। यह कहना कि कोस्ट गार्ड के मामले में यह बात हुई और कोस्ट गार्ड के ऊपर इस बात को किया गया था तो अगर हर बार ऐसा होने लगेगा तो यह स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की एक तरह से इंसल्ट है और स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के बारे में जो राय आज तक बनी हुई है उसको भी यह तोड़ती है। इस तरह से अगर होता है कि स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के ऊपर सलेक्ट कमेटी हो और दस नाम यहां से रखे जाएं, जिनका इलेक्शन होता है, इसमें आमतौर पर जो तरीका है वह यह होता है कि प्रपोर्सनल रिप्रजन्टेशन हो, बातचीत से हो। एकदम 10 नाम उन्होंने पढ़कर सुना दिया। मुझे लगता है कि यह तरीका बहुत ही गलत होगा, यह अच्छा नहीं होगा। मेरा अनुरोध है कि इस तरह की चीज आप न करें।

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Whatever is passed by the Standing Committee, it is not binding on this House. This House is supreme. So, in no way this House has cast any aspersion on the Standing Committee. To say that we are going to belittle the Standing Committee by appointing a Select Committee is wrong. This House is the final authority. Wheatever the Standing Committee is doing, is not binding on this House. So, it is a wrong impression for him to say that this House is belittling the Standing Committee by appointing a Select Committee. There is a convention in this House.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There is no convention.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: This convention was there last year. I was the Chairman of the Coast Guard Select Committee.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम (पश्चिमी बंगाल): ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिये। हमारे यहां कुछ नार्म्स हैं।

You have allowed him to move his amendmnt on this Bill. His amendment is very clear. he wants that this Bill be referred to the Select Committee. The House will decide whether to send it to the Select Committee or not.

ऐसा नहीं है कि हमेशा मंत्री जी ही सलेक्ट कमेटी को प्रपोज करें। ये नाम तो इनकी तरफ से नहीं आने हैं। अगर मंत्री जी कह दें कि हम हाउस के सेंस को मान लेते हैं तो फिर सलेक्ट कमेटी में इसको भेज जाने के लिये फिर मोशन आएगा, नाम भी आएंगे। ऐसा नहीं है कि हम जरूर उसको पास करेंगे। लेकिन जब ये अमेंडमेंट देते हैं, जब मौशन देते हैं तो उसको उसी तरीके से देना पड़ेगा। यह पार्लियामेंटरी प्रेक्टिस का मामला है।

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka), Madam, in the case of the Coast Guard Bill, a similar provision was there. The Select Committee has recommended certain thing. Now, the Navy Bill has the same provision which is now sought to be introduced. The Select Committee has changed it. Suppose, we pass this Bill, then, automatically the Government can reject it because they have not yet taken a decision on the Coast Guard Bill. The Government has to make up its mind whether it is accepting the recommendations of the Select Committee or not. Only then the Government can technically bring forward this Bill; otherwise, they cannot bring it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: madam, I will not go into the arguments about the validity of this report or the authenticity of this report or whether this report is to be accepted or whether it is going to influence anyone here or not.

I will now read from the introduction of this report which was submitted on the 31st of July, 1997. This is the introduction by the Chairman:

> "The Navy (Amendment) Bill, 1997 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 12th March and was referred to the Committee by the Hon'ble Speaker in consultation with the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha, on 17th under rule ..... for examination and report. The Committee had briefing/ presentation by the representatives of the Ministry of Defence and also undertook clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill on 8th May, 1997 and adopted the same. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Defence for appearing before the Committee and for furnishing the material and information which the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Bill. The Committee also wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Law and Justice for giving valuable assistance to the Committee in the examination of the Bill.
>
> The report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 14th of July, 1997."

What that report is, I read the concluding part of that report. Now it is in your hands, Madam Vice-Chairperson, as to what you wish to do. and, of course, it is in the hands of the House as to what the House wants to do.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): The Bill may be in may hands. But I am in the hands of the house.

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: It was the same case with the Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill. That amendment was considered by the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee made some recommendations. We considered the Amendment Bill. Then we found many flaws and short-comings in that Bill. Then the Rajya Sabha appointed a Rajya Sabha select Committee. Mr. John Fernandes was the Chairman of that Committee. And the Committee considered the provisions and

made recommendations to make certain changes in the provisions of the Amendment. A similar provision is proposed here which the Select Committee considered and recommended in the case of the earlier Amendment. That is why I am moving this Motion for referring this Amendment Bill to a Select Committee.

SHRI JIBON ROY: If you pass this Bill, what will happen to the Amendment to the Coast Guard Act?

SHRI MD. SALIM: The Rajya Sabha, in its wisdom, constituted a Select Committee earlier. The same kind of provisions are imported in this Bill. That is why the House has to take a decision. it cannot be like this. We can have an independent Bill, of course. But this is a similar Bill. The Government has not made its mind clear as to whether it is going to go by the recommendations of the Select Committee or not. We cannot consider this Amendment Bill now. We will have to send it to a Select Committee.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I would like to mention here that if at any time during a meeting of the House, there is no quorum, it shall be the duty of the Chairman or the Speaker or the person acting as such, either to adjourn the House or to suspend the meeting until there is a quorum.

SHRI MD. SALIM: It is not raised by any Member. But the Chair, in its wisdom, has raised it. Okay, it can be done. The Chair can take a decision. We do not object to it. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Then it should be done every day.

SHRI MD. SALIM: Yes, it should be done every day.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Please don't be agitated, Mr. Salim.

SHRI MD. SALIM: I welcome it, Madam, No Member has raised the point of quorum. You have already said that there is no quorum. It is on record. The House cannot go on now. You have already said that there is no quorum. It is on record. The House cannot go on now. you have to adjourn it on the basis of lack of quorum. After that question has been raised from the Chair, we cannot continue. It is on record. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR (Maharashtra): Madam, I beg to differ. I think the Chair is responsble for the conduct of the meeting of this House, and if the Chairman comes to the conclusion that for want of quorum, the meeting should not go on, the Chairperson will decide that. Madam, You have done the right thing.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Mamam, I want to make one point. If the quorum problem is there and if this problem is taken as a precedent so far as the proceedings of the House are concerned....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I was quoting from the Constitution of India. Definitely, I would like to call those Members who would like to participate in this. But if there is any kind of reservation from the Members side, I would like to honour their feelings. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANATAN BISI (Orissa): Madam, I have not completed my point. If such a thing will be there on record, does the House have the wisdom of waiving off this thing? Otherwise, it will become a precedent.

SHRI MD. SALIM: We cannot waive it off. We are thankful to you that you have attracted the attention of the House to a certain provision of the Constitution. We cannot revoke it. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Malhotra Ji, do you want to say something?

प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दिल्ली): मैडम, मुझे तो सिर्फ यह बात कहनी थी कि इस हाउस में नॉर्मली यह कंवेंशन रही है कि कोरम है या नहीं है, किसी ने आज तक वह सवाल नहीं उठाया और बहस होती रही है। अगर कहीं वोटिंग का सवाल आ जाए और किसी बिल का मामला आ जाए तथा हाउस में कोरम न हो, तो उसको चलाते रहना यह मुनासिब नहीं है। इनकी मैजोरिटी का We know that. *(Interruptions)*

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): सवाल मैजोरिटी या माइनारिटी का नहीं है। ....**(व्यवधान)**

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I say that even tomorrow or day after tomorrow, we are not in majority. The ruling party is not in majority in the Rajya Sabha. Even tomorrow or day after tomorrow, you can take a decision. But once it is said that there is no quorum. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Madam, this is not at all a question of majority or minority. The Rajya Sabha considered a similar provision and appointed a Select Committee. That Committee had gone through it and had made certain recommendations for making amendments. That is before the Government. The Government has not considered that report. Before considering that report, the Government is again approaching the Rajya Sabha for its approval for a similar provision. This is the creation of the Government. This is not our creation. Let the Government consider this aspect and let the Government come forward with a solution.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: That is what I said. *(Interruptions)* We can come to a conclusion provided it is acceptable to all the parties. At the moment, the House cannot go on like this.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम (पश्चिमी बंगाल): मैडम, हमने तो अभी तक मोशन पेश भी नहीं किए थे, विज़डम की बात चल रही थी, गवर्नमेंट के पास रेक्वेस्ट चल रही थी, और मंत्री जी के रिएक्शन मांग रहे थे। हमने यह भी नहीं कहा कि हमारी एब्सोल्यूट मैजोरिटी है। उसके बावजूद भी ऐसे ही हाउस में एडजर्न हो सकता था कि यह मामला कल देखा जाएगा। लेकिन यह सवाल उस तरफ से ऐसे ही डाला जाए माइनारिटी-मैजोरिटी का, तो दिक्कत हो जाएगी। हम हाउस को ऐसे नहीं चलाते हैं। अभी हम यह नहीं बोल रहे थे कि प्रैस करके इस मोशन को पास करा दो। ऐसा नहीं कहा गया और ऐसा नहीं किया जा रहा था। रीज़निंग दिया जा रहा था। इसलिए सलैक्ट कमेटी की बात कही गई शीयर नंबर के साथ उसको पास करने की बात नहीं कही गई। इसलिए सवाल आया....**(व्यवधान)** सलैक्ट कमेटी में ऐसे प्रोविज़न पास किए हैं। ....**(व्यवधान)**

†جناب محمد سلیم (مغربی بنگال): میڈم - ہم نے تو ابھی تک موشن پیش بھی نہیں کئے تھے - وزڈم کی بات چل رہی تھی - گورنمنٹ کے پاس ریکویسٹ چل رہی تھی اور منتری جی سے اس ایکشن مانگ رہے تھے - ہم نے یہ بھی نہیں کہا کہ ہماری ابسلیوٹ میجارٹی ہے - اسکے باوجود بھی ایسے ہی ہاؤس ایڈجارن ہو سکتا تھا کہ یہ معاملہ کل دیکھا جائے گا - لیکن یہ سوال اس طرف سے ایسے ہی ڈالا جائے مائناریٹی میجارٹی کا تو وقت ہو جائے گی - ہم ہاؤس کو ایسے نہیں چلاتے ہیں - ابھی ہم یہ نہیں بول رہے تھے کہ پریس کرکے اس موشن کو پاس کرا دو - ایسا نہیں کہا گیا اور ایسا نہیں کیا جا رہا تھا - ریزننگ دیا جا رہا تھا -

†[ ]Transilteration in Arabic Script

اس لئے سلیکٹ کمیٹی کی بات نہیں
کی گئی - اسلئے سوال آیا ... "مداخلت"
سلیکٹ کمیٹی میں ایسے پروویژنس
پاس کئے ہیں ... "مداخلت" ...

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Madam, you have rightly referred to a provision of the Constitution. In fact, it would have been a mockery if this was passed without a quorum here. This is a law which we are giving to our country. Secondly, we are not forcing the Government to come with this Bill before the House. The Government can reconsider it. The Government can withdraw this Bill now and the Government can come with the Coast Guards Bill. (*Interruptions*) The Government may withdraw this Bill now for the time being and can come with the other Bill on which a report by the Select Committee has already been given. The Government can also apply its mind to the recommendations of that Select Committee because there provisions are also the same. I think the Government can make up its mind.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Madam, we will not go into a hair-splitting debate. There is no politics involved in it. You will recall that that particular Bill was to be piloted by the United Front Government and we were also supporting that Bill. But we genuinely felt that there were certain lacunae in the Bill. It had somehow escaped the attention of the hon. Standing Committee of Defence and we felt it incumbent on us that we should move this amendment and refer it to the Select Committee. It was sent to the Select Committee. Now the Select Committee, in its wisdom, has given a certain set of recommendations. It is under the consideration of the Government. If the Navy Bill also is containing the same provisions which have been amended by the Select Committee in its recommendations, by implication it has no direct bearing, by implication the Government is rejecting the set of amendments moved by the earlier Select Committee on the Coast Guard Bill, I think that will not be a good precedent. Therefore, what we can do is, let us delay the Bill, let us not withdraw it, let us not consider it today. Meanwhile, let the Government form its opinion on the Coast Guard Bill and let the Government again come back with the Coast Guard Bill; we will pass it, and on the basis of the experience, we will go through the Navy (Amendment) Bill. Even the Government can come with an amendment; the provision is the same. A new Select Committee may not be necessary. The same provision that has been incorporated by the Select Committee in the Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill can be incorporated. It may be incorporated as an official amendment. The whole thing can be passed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): This is a very fair suggestion.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: May I make a suggestion, Madam Vice-Chairperson? My suggestion is why not an hon. Member move that amendment to the Bill, and the process is taken up. ...(*Interruptions*)... Another amendment that you wish to move can also be moved.

SHRI MD. SALIM: The discussion is very fruitful. If the Minister so agrees that he is ready to concede the set of recommendations made by the Select Committee on the Coast Guard Bill and is also ready to associate, we will bring the amendment. Let him bring the Coast Guard Bill first, and similarly the Navy Bill also, we will incorporate it. But let him assure that he is ready to accept the amendments, not outside, within the parameters of the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Coast Guard Bill. If he is ready to accept the similar amendment in the Navy Bill, we will incorporate it; no problem. We accept the suggestion.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Madam, I learn that whatever amendment was suggested by the Select Committee is before the Law Ministry, and I have no idea as to what the Law Ministry is thinking about it. Therefore, what I am suggesting is let the House move that amendment, let any Member move that amendment, let that amendment be discussed in the House and let a decision be taken.

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: No, no; that is not the position.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Madam, I have not stood to contradict the amendment of Mr. Pillai, but I would say at the same time that the Bill was introduced long before. It has been listed in the List of Business today. At the same time, every Member has liberty to move his amendments. Amendments have not come so far. It is the only amendment which has been placed on the Table and has been distributed by Mr. Pillai to move this Bill, particularly to the Select Committee. I would say that there is no harm to move this amendment and consider this Bill by moving the amendment as well. There is no necessity to send it to the Select Committee. If there had been any defect in the Bill, if there had been any lacunae in the Bill, it ought to have been referred.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, after listening carefully to what Mr. Fernandes said, I observe that he has not seen the amendments. If that is the case, it would be unnecessary for us or for somebody else to move the amendment and discuss that. It is much more important for the Minister to look into the amendment, make up his own mind on this Bill and also on the Coast Guard and then come back to the House. Let us not do anything in haste. If the Minister has not applied his mind to the amendments, then what is the point in moving the amendment now? I suggest to him to go through the amendment first and also try to go through the provisions of both the Bills at the same time and come to some conclusion and then come back with whatever he has in mind. That will be much better than trying to move something in haste or rejecting something in haste. So, I request the Minister to agree to this, and let us adjourn. ...(*Interruptions*)...

AN HON. MEMBER: May I say one thing, Madam Vice-Chairperson? What we are doing is incorrect. If there is no quorum, nothing can be discussed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Whether there is a quorum or no quorum, that is not the question now.

[8 P.M.]

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: When there is no quorum, how can the proceedings go ahead?

प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: मैडम, इस हाऊस में आज तक कोरम की बात आमतौर से कभी नहीं हुई।....(व्यवधान)....मैं यह कह रहा हूं कि कोरम के अभाव में कभी भी कोई डिसकशन रोका नहीं गया है। पिछले कितने ही सालों से काम हुआ है। ....(व्यवधान).... आपने एक बात कही है कि अभी मिनिस्टर साहब ने देखा नहीं है, तो मैं कहना चाहता हूं, Let him look into it. Tomorrow or a day after tomorrow or whenever he wants, he can come before the House.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि मिनिस्टर साहब इस चीज पर कोई अपना एसोरेन्स दें और उसके बाद मुझे लगता है कि यह जो जिम्मेदारी है इस बिल के ऊपर, यह हम ऑनरेबिल चेयरमैन साहब पर छोड़ दें तो ज्यादा अच्छा रहेगा।

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He will look into it. (*Interruptions*).

श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीज: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, ठीक है, सदन की जो मंशा है कि आज इसको न लिया जाए तो कल के लिए रख लिया जाए। ...(व्यवधान)...

प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: जब भी उचित होगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: He should not say, "Tomorrow". He should not give any time-frame. Let him take into account the amendments which have been raised. Let the Minister consider both the Bills. Then the Minister can come before the House. We will discuss it. We are not talking about quorum. There is no question of quorum.

प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: ठीक है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Do you all agree to this proposal?

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Yes, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): In that case I adjourn the House till eleven a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at one minute past eight of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 23rd July, 1998.